

NEWS RELEASE

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Two Women Charged in Separate Cases of Theft of Social Security Funds

Rock Island, IL - Rodger A. Heaton, United States Attorney for the Central District of Illinois, announced that the federal grand jury returned two separate indictments on March 16, 2006, charging Sarah E. Mortimer, age 64, of 829 S 2nd Street, Monmouth, Illinois, with stealing Social Security funds and making false statements, and Freida Kay Curry, age 61, of 1002 15th Avenue, Apartment 1, East Moline, Illinois with stealing Social Security funds.

Count one of the indictment charging Mortimer alleges that from about February 1995 until September 2004, Mortimer received approximately \$59,194 in Supplemental Security Income benefit payments from the Social Security Administration that she was not entitled to receive. Counts two and three of the indictment allege that she made statements to the Social Security Administration on August 2, 2004, and November 9, 2004, falsely claiming that her husband was not living with her at the time benefits were received.

The indictment charging Curry alleges that from July 1992 until January 2006, she received Supplemental Security Income benefit payments from the Social Security Administration under two different social security numbers. The amount of the alleged theft was \$77,406.

The Clerk of the Court will issue summonses for Mortimer and Curry to appear in federal court in Rock Island, Illinois.

(More)

The offense of theft of Social Security funds carries a statutory penalty of up to 10 years imprisonment and a fine of up to \$250,000. The offense of making false statements carries a statutory penalty of up to 5 years imprisonment and a fine of up to \$250,000.

The cases are the result of investigations by the Social Security Administration's Office of Inspector General. Assistant U.S. Attorneys Jeffrey B. Lang and John K. Mehochko are prosecuting the cases.

Members of the public are reminded that an indictment is merely an accusation; the defendants are presumed innocent unless proven guilty.

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